

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04386 171205 Z

16

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 171105 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8793

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 4386

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS EAID VS

SUBJECT GVN PLANS TO REQUEST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

1. GVN ECONOMIC OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED COOPER THAT THIEU PLANS TO STRESS THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF \$250 MILLION FROM U. S. AND OTHER DONORS IN CY 73 TO SUPPORT A MAJOR RESETTLEMENT, RECONSTRUCTION AND INVESTMENT PROGRAM ON BASIS OF A \$850 MILLION IMPORT PROGRAM. ALTHOUGH THIEU ALSO EXPECTED TO PUT ON THE TABLE AN AID REQUEST OF \$4.7 BILLION FOR FIVE YEARS, HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE CONCRETE ASSURANCES FOR THIS LONGER RUN AND WILL STRESS ONLY THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS. HE DOES HOPE HIS SHORT- RUN REQUEST WILL RESULT IN FIRM U. S. COMMITMENT FOR ADDITIONAL AID IN CY 73. BY TIME OF MEETINGS IT APPEARS THE GVN WILL HAVE WELL ORGANIZED PRESENTATION COVERING BOTH SHORT AND LONGER- RUN REQUESTS AND BE WELL PREPARED FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS SUBSEQUENTLY IN WASHINGTON. DOLLAR AMOUNTS CITED ABOVE ARE HIGHER THAN REALISTIC, BUT OVERALL PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED WILL BE SENSIBLE AND WELL STRUCTURED. WE ARE URGING NGOC TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THIEU' S RECONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT THEY ARE STILL IN PROCESS OF BEING FORMULATED AND PROBABLY WON' T BE AVAILABLE BEFORE MIDDLE OR END OF NEXT WEEK.

2. THIEU MAY ALSO BE EXPECTED TO RAISE QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE ON RECONSTRUCTION AID. GVN OFFICIALS FEEL THEY WILL NEED TO SEND MINISTERIAL DELEGATION

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TO JAPAN BUT ARE RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS
BEFORE GETTING CLEARER PICTURE OF U. S. STRATEGY.
BUNKER

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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